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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DISCOUNT ADMISSION TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT AREA RETAILERS

Fair to extend purchasing hours at Emmerson Building

Springfield, IL. – The Illinois State Fair is teaming up with two area retailers to make it easier for fairgoers throughout central Illinois to purchase discount admission tickets and save money for their families.

Discount admission books include 11 paid gate admissions that can be used any day of the fair. Each book costs \$60, which results in an overall savings of 40 percent. These booklets are a great idea for any family, or group of friends, who plan to attend the fair more than once.

In addition to being available for purchase at the Emmerson Building on the fairgrounds, these discount booklets are now also available for purchase at Springfield area County Market locations and central Illinois Oik-N-Ez stores.

"As a long-time partner of the Illinois State Fair, we are proud to support this family friendly event year after year," said Gerry Kettler of County Market. "The Illinois State Fair is an event that our associates and customers look forward to each summer. Our various locations throughout the Springfield area will provide an extra convenience for our customers and employees to purchase these discount admission books and take in the fair."

"This partnership with the Illinois State Fair is a great way for our company to help our communities," said Grady Chronister of Qik-N-Ez. "With locations in five counties across central Illinois, it's never been easier to pick up tickets to attend the Illinois State Fair."

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DISCOUNTS/2222

Qik-N-Ez locations include: Normal (East Vernon Avenue, North Main Street), Bloomington, Lincoln, Pana, South Jacksonville and Springfield (West Wabash, Peoria Road, Stevenson Drive, Monroe Street, Toronto Road and North Grand Avenue East).

County Market locations include: Springfield (Veterans Parkway, Carpenter Street, Monroe Street, 6th Street, Sherman, Chatham and Petersburg.

Also, time is running out for fairgoers to take advantage of another money saving offer at the Illinois State Fair. On August 1st, the price of a 2016 Illinois State Fair Mega Pass will increase from the current price of \$70 to \$90. An Illinois State Fair Mega Pass is good for UNLIMITED carnival rides, all 11 days of the Illinois State Fair. In order to accommodate fairgoers looking to purchase this carnival discount, the Emmerson Building will offer extended hours between now and the end of the month, including special Saturday hours.

Mega Pass purchases may be made with cash or MC/Visa/Discover by:

- · Visiting the Emmerson Building located on the fairgrounds (hours below)
- · Calling the Credentials Office at 217-782-6661;
- · Mailing order and payment to address on the order form; or
- · Using the ePAY link on the website (2.35% convenience fee).

Below is a list of hours of operations as we approach the start of the 2016 Illinois State Fair:

Emmerson Building Hours:

- o July 20 July 22 (8a-4p)
- o July 25 July 29 (8a-6p)
- o July 30 (9a-1p)
- \circ August 1 August 5 (8a-4p)
- August 8 August 10 (8a-6p)
- o August 11 (4p-7p) PREVIEW/PARADE NIGHT
- o August 12 August 16 (8a-7p)
- o August 17 August 20 (8a-6p)
- o August 21 (8a-noon)

For more information about these special offers, please contact the Illinois State Fair Administration Office 217-782-6661.

We hope to see you and your family at the 2016 Illinois State Fair, August 11- August 21st in Springfield.

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